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6-22-1894

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 1142, 53rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1894)

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INCREASE OF PENSION TO SURVIVORS OF THE MEXICAN
AND INDIAN WARS AND TO THEIR WIDOWS.

JUNE 22, 1894.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the
Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STALLINGS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the fol-
lowing

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7414.]

The Committee on Pensions have had several bills under considera-
tion which have for their object the allowance of an increased rating
to the veterans of the Indian and Mexican wars and their widows,
and the bill H. R. 7414, meeting, in form and substance, the views of
the committee, is herewith returned to the House with a favorable
recommendation.

The following carefully prepared statement by the Commissioner of
Pensions shows the number of persons to be benefited by the proposed
legislation, and also the probable amount of money required during the
first year to meet the requirements of the act:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C., May 25, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the
16th instant, asking for certain information relative to the number of pensioners on
the rolls under the acts of January 29, 1887, and July 27, 1892, which classes are
respectively known as "Mexican war" and "Indian war" pensioners; also the
number of applications for such pensions now pending in this Bureau, with the
probable number of the same which will eventually be allowed, the number of Mex-
ican war pensions increased under the act of January 5, 1893, and the probable
amount of money required per annum to increase all Indian and Mexican war sur-
vivors and widows who are now, or who may hereafter be, pensioned to the uniform
rate of \$12 per month.

In reply I have to advise you that the information afforded by this letter has
been collated up to the 30th day of April, 1894. On said date there were on the
rolls of the agencies for the payment of pensions the following number:

	Mexican war.	Indian wars.
Survivors	13, 625	3, 109
Widows	7, 611	3, 061
Total	21, 236	6, 170

On the same date there were pending in this Bureau the following claims:

	Mexican war.	Indian wars.
Survivors	931	426
Widows	1, 645	1, 726
Total	2, 576	2, 152

It is estimated by those charged with the consideration and adjudication of claims of this character, that of the different classes the following proportions are allowed: Survivors of the Mexican war, four-fifths of those filed; widows of the Mexican war, three-fourths of those filed; survivors of the Indian wars, two-thirds of those filed; widows of the Indian wars, three-fifths of those filed.

Applying these proportions to the number of claims of these classes which were respectively pending April 30, 1894, it will be found that the following will be the probable number of such claims allowed:

	Mexican war	Indian wars
Survivors.....	745	284
Widows.....	1,234	1,036
Total.....	1,979	1,320

The number of Mexican war pensioners increased under the act of January 5, 1893 (to April 30, 1894), was 3,421, all of whom were survivors of the Mexican war.

As to the probable additional amount of money required per annum to increase all Indian and Mexican war pensioners and applicants who may hereafter be pensioned, to the uniform rate of \$12 per month, I have to make the following statement: As there were on the rolls at the date stated 13,625 survivors of the Mexican war, and of that number 3,421 had been increased to \$12 per month, there remain 10,204 survivors who have not received any benefit from the act of January 5, 1893, providing for increase to certain pensioners of this class. How many of said number are entitled to the benefits of said act, it is not practicable to state; but assuming that none of them have such title, and adding to said number (10,204) the number (7,611) of widows of the Mexican war on the rolls of said date we find a total of 17,815 persons, which will be the largest possible number of Mexican war pensioners now on the rolls who will be favorably affected by the proposed legislation. The additional amount required per annum will be \$48 in each case, or a total for pensioners now on the rolls of \$855,120.

As it has been estimated that of the claims for Mexican war pensions now pending in this Bureau 1,979 will be allowed, the additional amount to this class (which will be \$48 per annum in each instance) will cost \$94,992. This makes a grand total additional cost for Mexican war pensioners, by reason of the proposed legislation, of \$950,112.

Of the Indian war pensioners, it has been stated that there were on the rolls April 30, 1894, 6,170; and it has been estimated herein that of the claims now pending 1,320 will probably be allowed. This makes a total of 7,490 persons who will be favorably affected by the proposed legislation; and at a cost of \$48 additional per annum in each case, there will result the sum of \$359,520 or a grand total on account of the pensioners of both classes of \$1,309,632. The cost of this legislation, in my opinion, will not exceed the sum stated.

Very respectfully,

WM. LOCHREN,
Commissioner.

Hon. CHARLES L. MOSES,
Chairman Committee on Pensions, House of Representatives.

The figures given above seem large when the depleted state of the Treasury is considered, but it will be remembered that, almost without exception, these people have reached a ripe old age and can not, in the natural order of things, remain long a charge upon the bounty of the Government. Large inroads will be made each year in the ranks, and a corresponding decrease will result in the annual pension appropriations on account of these old war pensioners. The large majority of these old people are in needy circumstances, and after enduring the hardships and fighting the battles of the old pioneer days, and adding vast territory to our country by conquering a foreign foe, are dependent for the common necessities of life upon the small amount they now receive by way of pension.

Your committee are being constantly importuned by members of the House and others to report bills granting much-needed relief to

survivors and widows of soldiers of these old wars, and it is believed that as a matter of simple justice a bill should be reported which will treat all alike, and give to each a monthly allowance which will aid in providing ordinary comforts during the few remaining years of their lives.

It is true that by an act approved January 5, 1893, such Mexican-war survivors as are wholly disabled for manual labor and are in destitute circumstances, can secure an increase from \$8 to \$12 per month by making application to the Pension Bureau, but that act does not reach the veterans of the Indian wars, nor does it benefit the widows of the soldiers of either of these wars. It seems clear, too, that many Mexican veterans who are undoubtedly entitled to the increase provided by the act of 1893 feel humiliated by the requirement that they shall prove themselves paupers before receiving the benefits of that act, and notwithstanding their needy condition decline to file an application.

In the judgment of your committee there should be no discrimination between these persons; they rendered equal service and should stand upon an equal footing in the recognition of their services by Congress. They all deserve well at the hands of the Government, and whatever acknowledgment Congress sees fit to make of the value of those services should be made impartially and without distinction of class or individuals.

The bill creates no new title to original pension on account of participation in the above-named wars, but simply increases from \$8 to \$12 per month such pensions as have been or may hereafter be allowed under the provisions of existing law, and in no case can the increased rating be allowed to antedate the time of the approval of this act.